

001-2117-60

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Foreign Documents Division, OO DATE: 20 April 1960

FROM : Chief, Assessments Branch, OCI

SUBJECT: FDD Review of Communist Theoretical Journals

1. Your request of 7 March 1960 for OCI comments and suggestions on the Review of Communist Theoretical Journals has been routed to the appropriate components, whose comments are attached.

2. In view of the disparity of views on the subject of analysis versus factual summary, no attempt at a consolidated reply has been made by this office, and individual branch replies are forwarded as received.

3. It is requested that all OCI copies of this publication be forwarded to Dissemination Branch, OCI.

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Attachments: a/s

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OCI COMMENTS ON
REVIEW OF COMMUNIST THEORETICAL JOURNALS

China and Asian Satellites

The material on North Vietnam is useful as background information, particularly if continuity of analysis can be maintained. The comparisons with Chinese journals are interesting, and North Korea should be included. However, the regular FDD Information Report on North Vietnam should not be slighted to produce this report.

The section on the Chinese theoretical journals is interesting, and it would be useful to have continued reporting on claims for Mao, on new discussions of political and political-economic theory, and on direct or indirect criticism of cadres' views.

European Satellites

The material on Eastern Europe is interesting, but would be more useful if it were more current. More analysis of differences and parallels in the area summary would also be useful. More comparison and analysis among the Satellites on a few specific questions is recommended, as opposed to factual summary, which is duplicated in the FDD weekly press summaries.

Western Europe

The information on Western Europe is useful, but discription, summary, and extracts would be more directly helpful then analysis.

USSR

The new Review is a useful publication, especially as a means of covering party journals on a systematic and continuing basis. There is no question of the need for a careful and continuing comparative analysis of the ideological output of international communism, as a whole and in its various parts. The effort will be especially justified if, through it, shifts in the tactics or priorities of the Communist movement in any of numerous areas of policy can be observed, or, if significant differences in attitude as between individual parties are

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revealed in their theoretical publications. Much can be grasped from this kind of study, if good judgment is shown in choosing what are meaningful similarities and divergences and what are not.

OCI should have a better base for comments in the new publication after it has gone through a number of issues--the first issue, however, looks rather promising. There are reservations on only one point of any consequence--that is on the weight assigned to Problems of Peace and Socialism which does not appear to have yet established itself as the central mouthpiece of the Communist movement.

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :
Chief, Foreign Documents Division

DATE: 4-15-60

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FROM : Mr. Max Horlick
RSB/EA, Department of State

SUBJECT: Evaluation of Review of Communist Theoretical Journals (1)

1. A review of this type is potentially very useful and well regarded by analysts concerned.

2. It is felt that some of the material in the first issue is based upon preconceived ideas of ideological divergencies which can prejudice the selection of materials in the future. INR does not, for example, have the same reading of the Yu Chao Li article, nor does it attribute as much Chinese Communist influence in Latin America as does the report.

3. Some simplification of style would lead to clearer presentation ("A more penetrating article than the lead editorial assumed an unexpectedly defensive posture, especially in view of the self-assured air of superiority with which the journal begins.")

4. Section I might be more useful if broken down by particular topic -- revisionism, united front, historiography, etc.

5. The material on the World Marxist Review, which is easily available, might be cut down. Lesser known Soviet publications than Kommunist might be added to the section on the Soviet Union. A review of one or two Yugoslav journals would also be useful.

6. A glossary is suggested to give the English title of the various publications.

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